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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2014

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$2.7 billion** (**2.9 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary December totals of \$2.2 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs, reinforcing bars, and oil country goods. Decreases occurred primarily in hot rolled bars and line pipe. Increases occurred primarily with Russia, Turkey, and Korea. Decreases occurred primarily with Brazil, Italy, and Germany.

The year to date final statistics through December 2013 showed steel imports of 29.2 million metric tons compared with 30.4 million metric tons through December 2012. The largest commodity decreases occurred primarily in plates cut lengths, plates in coils, oil country goods, blooms, billets and slabs, and line pipe. Increases occurred primarily in hot rolled bars, reinforcing bars, and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases occurred primarily with Russia and Canada. Increases occurred primarily with Mexico and China.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is March 25, 2014.